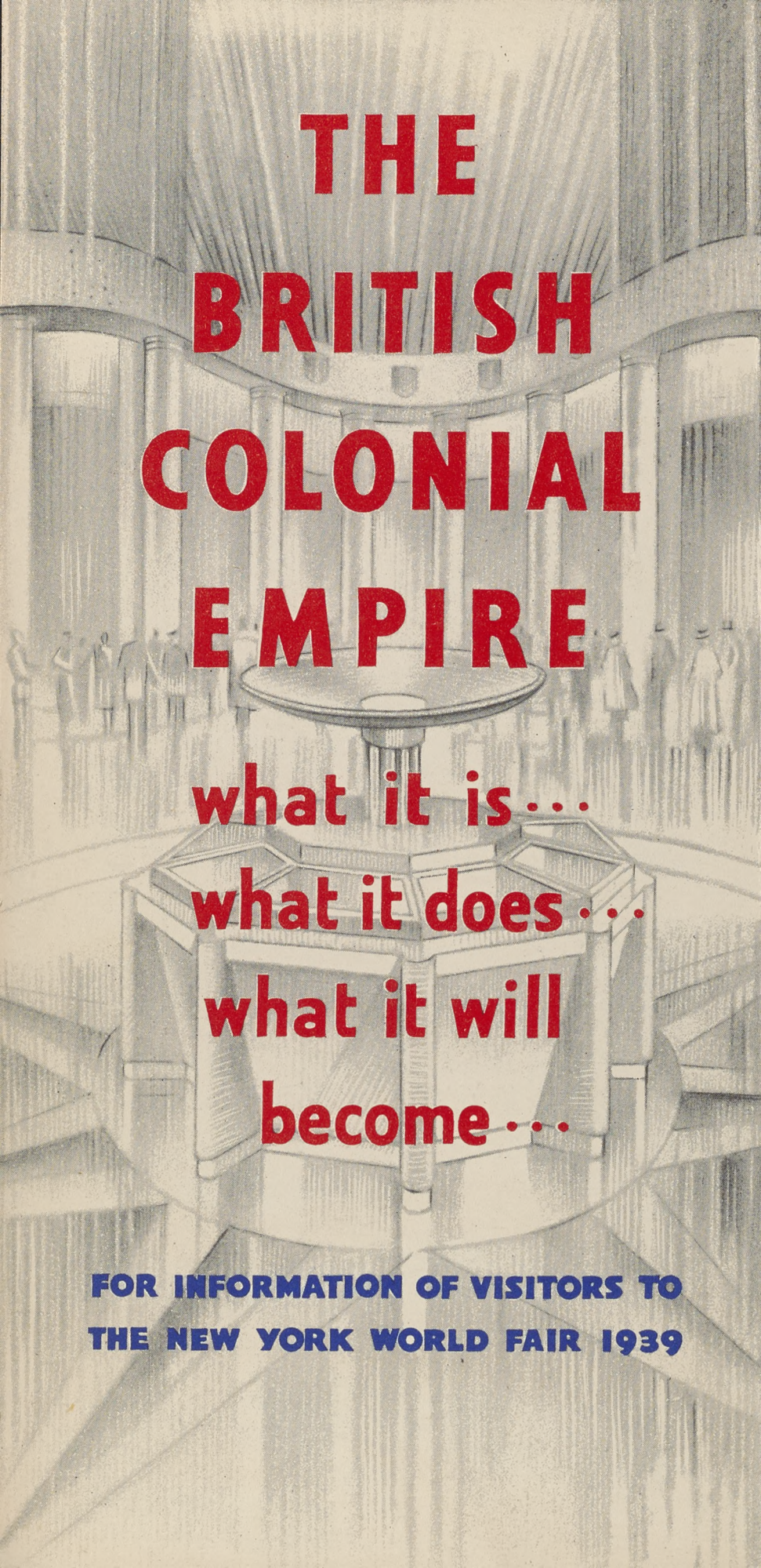
An Empire within an Empire



THE BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE

what it is . . .
what it does . . .
what it will become . . .

FOR INFORMATION OF VISITORS TO THE NEW YORK WORLD FAIR 1939

THE WORLD-WIDE EMPIRE. Scattered over every part of the World, the units of the British Colonial Empire cover an area of some 2,300,000 sq. miles of territory, one twenty-fourth of the Earth's surface.

LANDS OF ALL SIZES. Immense variety with fundamental unity — that is the outstanding characteristic of this Empire within an Empire. It is composed of a large number of territories of many sizes, varying from the small rock of Gibraltar, only one and seven-eighths square miles in area to the vast continental country of Nigeria covering 373,000 sq. miles (nearly as big as Texas and New Mexico combined).

PEOPLE OF ALL RACES. As varied as the lands which they inhabit are the 60,000,000 peoples of the British Colonial Empire. They are of every race — Europeans, Africans, Chinese, Indians, Arabs, Malays, Polynesians, aboriginals — and of a mixture of races talking hundreds of different tongues. Their history is as varied as their religion, customs and forms of government.

MANY PRODUCTS FROM RICH LANDS. In tropic forests, on sandy plains, by swamp and mountain, on coral reef and fertile plateau they lead their lives. On all sorts of soils, in all kinds of climes they raise their crops, graze their livestock and work for minerals. From their toil come many varieties of primary products and raw materials, agricultural and mineral. Self-supporting themselves, they also contribute largely to the world's exports. Tea, sugar, rubber, cocoa, palm products, cotton, citrus and other fruits, coffee, spices, coconut oil, hides and skins — these are the outstanding agricultural exports. And gold, platinum, diamonds, copper, tin, manganese,

cobalt and other minerals, come to the World from their mines.

GOVERNMENT AND ITS SERVANTS. The territories are administered in more than sixty different units, some with their own rulers, all following policies approved by the British Government, and all responsible to it. To serve the peoples of this Empire there are more than 200,000 civil servants, men and women, administrators, doctors, judges, lawyers, teachers, engineers, chemists, agricultural and forestry experts, policemen, marketing experts. Of the 200,000 the great majority belong to the territories which they serve.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY. Haphazardly through the centuries has this Empire grown up. It has great diversity of people, place and development. But each of its territories has a fundamental unity in its allegiance to the British Crown, and in its common problem and its common interest: to develop their rich economic resources and to reach out to the ultimate goal of a self-governing unit within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

BRITAIN AS TRUSTEE. And it is the policy of the British Government to help the peoples of the Colonial Empire in the achievement of these aims. Each member of the Colonial Civil Service is there for that purpose, to aid the cultural as well as the material development of the people whom he serves. To hold the Colonial Empire in trust for its peoples, to help its development socially and economically is the policy of the British Government and the aim of its servants in each part of the British Colonial Empire.

THE SIX GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS of CEMB the BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE

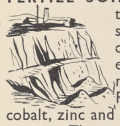
EAST AFRICAN

Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika Territory, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Somaliland, Zanzibar. Total Population 15,700,000—mostly Africans. Total area approx. 1,086,000 sq. miles.

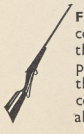
LARGE LANDS WITH LARGE LAKES. On the eastern seaboard and interior of Africa lies this group. Zanzibar, which has its own Sultan, is twenty miles from the coast. Included in these territories are Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

EXPLORERS. Acquired by treaties from the end of the last century onwards they had been made known by the great explorers, Livingstone, Stanley, Speke and Burton. At one time the territories were the hunting ground of Arab slave traders, a traffic successfully suppressed. Zanzibar's known history goes back to antiquity. Conquered by the Arabs it became a British protectorate in the last century.

LANDS WITH MANY PEOPLES. The African population of these territories is of mixed stock—Bantu, Masai, Swahili and other tribes, Christians, Moslems, and pagans, most of them living on the land.



FERTILE SOILS, RICH MINES. Cotton, sugar, tobacco, maize, sisal (for ropes and string), hides, skins, gums, coffee, and cloves (from Zanzibar) are the principal exports after the local needs have been met. Tanganyika, Kenya and Northern Rhodesia are rich in minerals—copper, cobalt, zinc and gold and tin being the biggest mineral exports. There are also extensive forests.



FROM HOT TO COLD. In climate there is considerable variation. In the highlands of the mountain ranges the climate is temperate, and even cold, while in the plains there is great tropical heat. The territories contain world-famous scenery, and an abundance of game, with big game reserves.

WEST AFRICAN

Gambia, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, St. Helena. Total Population 25,900,000, mostly Africans. Total area approx. 497,000 sq. miles.

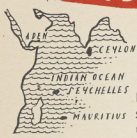
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS' DEVELOPMENT. Very important are the territories in West Africa. Their colonial history goes back to the early days of the sixteenth century. The nucleus of Sierra Leone was bought by the British Government as a home for Africans rescued from slavery; St. Helena, once famous as the home of the exiled Napoleon, was an important port of call for ships from the East.

WHERE AFRICANS RULE. Africans form the population, coming from many different tribes, for, despite the modern advances of medical science, the territory is unsuitable for permanent habitation by white men. The Africans are engaged almost entirely in agriculture and in mining, and are ruled largely by their own emirs, chiefs and headmen.

GOLD AND DIAMONDS. Cocoa, palm products, ground nuts, cotton, hides, and skins are the outstanding exports, while from the rich mines come gold, diamonds, iron ore and manganese. The Gold Coast and Sierra Leone are especially rich in minerals. Noteworthy among modern developments are the great new harbours at Takoradi in the Gold Coast and Lagos in Nigeria, where ocean-going ships can be berthed.

MEDICINE'S SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE. The climate is exacting for Europeans, being intensely hot and humid. Of late years there have been great improvements in sanitation and in the prevention and cure of tropical disease and the medical service for Europeans and Africans is very good.

INDIAN OCEAN



Ceylon, Mauritius, Aden Colony and Protectorate and Seychelles. Total Population 6,755,000. Total area approx. 138,000 sq. miles.

FROM INDIA TO AFRICA. Off the southern extremity of India lies Ceylon. Two thousand miles to the south west of Ceylon is Mauritius, itself over nine hundred miles south of the Seychelles and over 1,000 miles from the coast of Africa. Aden lies at the foot of the Red Sea.

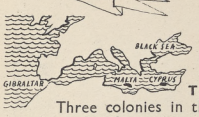
TWO CIVILISATIONS. Since the sixth century B.C. when the Indians invaded Ceylon the island has had an interesting history. The Portuguese, the Dutch and finally the British have had a hand in its shaping. Mauritius and the Seychelles became British in 1810, Ceylon in 1815, Aden in 1839.

LAND OF COLOUR. All the colour and pageantry of the East is found in Ceylon, the Cingalese people being gay, fond of feasts and processions, yet working hard on the plantations. In Mauritius and Seychelles, especially the latter, there are many descendants of the old French aristocracy and more people of European descent than in most tropical countries.

HEAT AND COOL BREEZES. Ceylon has a good climate, the heat in the plains not being as great as in India, and the hill climate is most agreeable. Mauritius and Seychelles have hot seasons with a heavy rainfall but also a pleasant cool season.

TEA AND SUGAR. All the islands, in contrast to Aden, which is a port of strategic importance, are highly fertile and productive. The teas of Ceylon are famous and great quantities are exported. Rubber is also grown on the plantations, in addition to coconuts and rice. Mauritius produces large crops of sugar, also copra. Seychelles produces copra, guano and essential oils.

MEDITERRANEAN



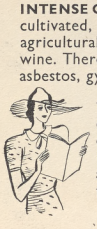
Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus. Total Population 650,000. Total area 3,700 sq. miles.

THREE KEYS TO THE EAST. Three colonies in the Mediterranean form this group, all of great historic and modern interest. Gibraltar, "the Rock," British naval base and fortress, is the key to the western end of the sea. In the middle is Malta, an even bigger naval base and port of call for shipping for coaling and sightseeing. At the eastern end is Cyprus, third largest island in the Mediterranean.

LINKS WITH THE ANCIENTS. Gibraltar became British in the early eighteenth century, Malta and Cyprus in the nineteenth. Both the latter have long histories. Malta was famous under the Phœnicians, the Romans, and the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Cyprus, an important centre of civilisation in 2,000 B.C., had contacts with Ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome.

SEA, SOIL AND MINES. The small civil population of Gibraltar is mainly concerned with military affairs and shipping. Malta has an industrious and thrifty people, speaking a tongue akin to Arabic, who are largely engaged in agriculture and in work in the port of Valletta. The people of Cyprus, where Christianity was established by St. Paul, are occupied both with agriculture and with mining.

INTENSE CULTIVATION. From Malta, which is highly cultivated, come onions and potatoes. From Cyprus agriculturally self-supporting, come carobs, tobacco and wine. There is mineral wealth too in Cyprus, copper, asbestos, gypsum and chrome being found there.



THE ANTIQUE SCENE. There are differences in climate. That of Malta is warm and equable. Cyprus is dry and hot in the plains, but bracing and cool in the mountains. Malta and Cyprus have many attractions for tourists and students.

FAR EASTERN

Straits Settlements, Federated and Unfederated Malay States, Sarawak, North Borneo, Hong Kong, Fiji, and the Territories of the Western Pacific High Commission. Total Population 6,942,000. Total area approx. 158,000 sq. miles.

OVER TWO OCEANS. Widespread are the territories in this group which includes the rich Malay peninsula, Hong Kong in China and many scattered islands in the Pacific. And noteworthy are the State of North Borneo, which is administered by a British Chartered company, and Sarawak, the territory of the "White Rajah."

PORTUGUESE, DUTCH AND BRITISH. In the Malay Peninsula are some of the oldest European settlements in the East. First the Portuguese, then the Dutch settled there. By treaty and purchase they became British during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as did Hong Kong and the Pacific Islands. The Federated and Unfederated Malay States have their own Malay Sultans, ruling under British protection, and the Pacific Islands have many local chiefs.

PEOPLE OF CHARACTER. The inhabitants of this group are varied and picturesque in race, appearance, and customs. Malays, and kindred tribes, Chinese, Indians, Polynesians (the latter in the Pacific Islands) form their peoples. Their principal occupations are commerce, agriculture and mining.

RUBBER, RICE AND TIN. Here is great natural wealth, and parts of these dependencies are very highly cultivated. Rubber is the most outstanding product, but there are many others. Rice, copra, coconuts, timber, come from most parts, oil, pepper and sago from Sarawak, cutch (for tanning) from North Borneo, which has much virgin jungle, and tin is extensively mined. From Fiji come sugar and tropical fruits. Hong Kong is a large port and docks. Singapore in Malaya is the great British naval and air base of the East.

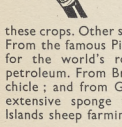
SUN AND RAIN. Climatically the territories are varied. In the Malay peninsula there is uniform temperature, high humidity and much rain. The Pacific Islands have a climate which is cool for the tropics and equable. All the territories have fine scenery and interesting sights for the tourist.

WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC

Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica (including the Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands), Leeward Islands, Trinidad & Tobago, Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent), Bermuda and the Falkland Islands. Total Population 2,624,000. Total area approx. 115,000 sq. miles.

BRITAIN IN THE AMERICAS. In the south of the North Atlantic Ocean, off the coasts of the U.S.A., Central and South America, are most of these islands. British Honduras is part of the Central American mainland and British Guiana of the South American continent, while far away in the South Atlantic lie the Falkland Islands and dependencies.

SKULL AND CROSSBONES HISTORY. Columbus himself discovered some of them, sailing as he thought to India—hence the West Indies—and amongst them are the oldest possessions of the British Crown. Sixteenth and Seventeenth century struggles between England and Spain and England and France cover many pages of their history and many of them became a haunt of buccaneers and pirates.



A LAND OF SWEETNESS. West Indian rum is famous the world over. Sugar and molasses, citrus fruits and bananas are the best known of the agricultural products from this group, and large numbers of people are engaged in the cultivation of these crops. Other subsidiary crops are coffee, rice and coconuts. From the famous Pitch Lake of Tropical Trinidad comes asphalt for the world's roads, and from the island's wells comes petroleum. From British Honduras come mahogany, cedar and chicle ; and from Guiana bauxite and gold. The Bahamas have extensive sponge fisheries. On far away, treeless Falkland Islands sheep farming and whaling are the industries.

AMERICA'S PLAYGROUNDS. Eternal Spring and Eternal Summer can be found in these lands. And the geniality of the climate is rivalled only by the fascination of the scenery, and by the variety of entertainment. Bermuda and the Bahamas are world-famous playgrounds. Fisherman, fun seeker and sun seeker find them perfect. But the Kaieteur Falls of British Guiana, the mountains of Jamaica and the tropic forests of Trinidad, together with comfortable hotels and a mass of entrancing sights and amusements make them no less attractive.

THE BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE

COVERS 2,300,000 sq. miles

IS WIDELY SCATTERED OVER THE GLOBE, MAINLY IN THE TROPICS

IS 26 TIMES THE SIZE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

CONTAINS 60,000,000 PEOPLE OF ALL RACES SPEAKING OVER A HUNDRED DIFFERENT TONGUES

PRODUCES MANY KINDS OF FOODSTUFFS AND RAW MATERIALS

IT OWES DIRECT ALLEGIANCE TO THE BRITISH CROWN AND IS ADMINISTERED BY GOVERNORS AND LOCAL LEGISLATURES RESPONSIBLE TO THE U.K. GOVT. AS TRUSTEES FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE INHABITANTS

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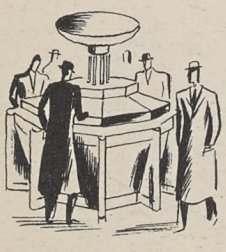
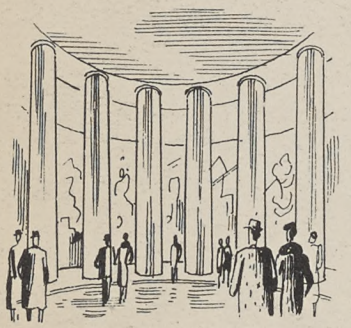
A ROUND TRIP OF THE BRITISH COLONIAL EMPIRE. See the sort of countries which make up the British Colonial Empire. See how their people live, work, play. All this is shown in the six territorial alcoves.



HUNDREDS OF POSTAGE STAMPS from all the British Colonial Dependencies are displayed in the central pedestal.



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